UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

Radio Service

OFFICE OF
INFORMATION

YOUR FARM REPORTER AT WASHINGTON   Monday, August 3, 1931

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Speaking Time: 10 Minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Your farm reporter at Washington will now report to you the results of his most recent interviews with specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. He has several subjects to tell about --- All right, Mr. Reporter, go ahead! ---

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I want to tell you about a discovery in cotton.

It may prove important to many of you farmers who don't grow cotton--- Yes, it may be important to some of you who never even saw cotton growing. And, of course, it is plainly important to cotton growers.

But the point is, what has been found out about cotton plants may also be true in the case of many other plants.

Anyway, Mr. George J. Harrison, of the Egyptian Cotton Breeding Office of the Bureau of Plant Industry, points out that his investigation of cotton was suggested by a prior discovery by other bureau experts of a peculiar effect produced by cross pollination of date trees. The discovery that two plants as different as date palms and cotton show this same phenomenon suggests that it may be of widespread occurrence in nature. Many other plants may prove subject to similar effects.

Now let's see what this discovery is ----

As I gather from what Mr. Harrison says, when one type of cotton is fertilized with pollen from another different type of cotton, the seed produced as a result of that crossing will be different from the parents. We all realize that; such crossing shows up in the seed for the next crop.

Mr. Harrison has discovered, however, that when one type of cotton is fertilized with pollen from another type of cotton there is not only the well-known effect on the baby plant, but also an immediate effect of the pollen on the tissues of the mother plant. The time it takes for the standing mother cotton plant to mature, and the length of the lint, and the quantity of fuzz on the seeds of the mother plant are affected by cross pollination from different type cotton.

That discovery has a practical importance to the cotton grower. Mr. Harrison says that whenever two varieties of cotton are grown in neighboring fields there is more or less transfer of pollen by bees and other insects. It is true, only a small percentage of the plants are likely to be cross-fertilized that way. But if those two varieties differ very much in fiber length whatever crossing takes place will be detrimental to the uniformity of the immediate crop as well as the value of the seed for future planting.

That is, if a field of long-staple cotton is grown near a field of short-staple cotton, a certain proportion of the lint will be shorter than average in the field of long-staple cotton, and longer than average in the field of short-staple cotton. And in both cases, the value of the cotton may be decreased, as spinners demand a uniform product. So you see, this discovery gives another reason for growing only one kind of cotton in a neighborhood.

But remember, cotton is not the only plant affected. The fact that fertilization with different kinds of pollen has an effect not only on the baby plant inside the seed, but also on other parts of the seed and even the fruit enveloping it, which belongs to the mother plant, was first definitely demonstrated in a plant that is no kin at all to cotton.

Dr. Walter T. Swingle and Roy W. Nixon, also of the Bureau of Plant Industry, made the original discovery that such a thing even actually happens in any plant by working with date trees. They found that pollen from certain male date trees when placed on flowers of female date trees influences the size of the fruit and its time of ripening.

In the case of dates, the time of ripening was affected much more than the time of ripening was in the experiments with cotton. In fact, the influence was so marked that this discovery now promises to revolutionize date growing in this country.

Date trees flower over a period of about eight weeks in the spring. Heretofore, the ripening period has spread out over about that same length of time. Now, however, the new discovery is being used to control ripening to better fit conditions in different date growing sections.

By using pollen known to produce late maturity on the flowers in the first half of the blooming season and early maturing pollen on the later blooms, it has been found possible to shorten the ripening season.

According to Dr. Swingle, several possibilities for using this discovery are being tried out in different sections. As all date trees must be pollinated by hand anyway, the practical application of the discovery doesn't add to the work or expense of growing the crop.

In parts of the Southwest, where dates are grown at high altitudes, the growers want their crop to mature as early as possible. Early ripening pollen can be used to get that result. In hot regions such as Death Valley, late maturity is desirable, so late ripening pollen can be used there.

Last year, in the Coachella Valley of California, which is the chief date growing section of this country, two kinds of pollen were successfully used at different states of the flowering season to shorten up the ripening season and reduce weather risks.

On the other hand, in Southern Texas where a date industry gives promise of developing, a long ripening period is best, because of the long growing season and the occasional heavy rains. By pollination to spread the ripening season over several weeks the amount of damage caused by heavy rains at any given time would be reduced.

But the full possibilities of this discovery may not be known for years. Many other plants are expected to be added to the list of those which show this hitherto unknown effect. Already there are indications that something similar takes place in the case of a few varieties of apples.

In dates, time of ripening seems to be the factor where the pollen influence shows itself most.

In cotton, the effect of the length of fiber seems to be the important thing. In some other plant, it may be something else which may be equally important in its practical effects on that crop. And some other scientist may make the next discovery.

That's the way it is with these scientific discoveries. There is often a lot of team work by the various specialists to bring the benefits of one of these fundamental findings home to the practical use of farmers in many lines.

In this case, Dr. Swingle and Mr. Nixon made the first discovery. Mr. Harrison caught the idea from them. His investigation carries the discovery into other fields. His work may pass the ball on to somebody else. Nobody can say for certain how far and wide the application of that original discovery may go.

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<u>ANNOUNCEMENT</u>: Your farm reporter at Washington has just given us a brief account of certain important recent discoveries in plant science. We may hear more of this work later. Station _______ joins with the United States Department of Agriculture in bringing you these reports.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

Radio Service

OFFICE OF
INFORMATION

YOUR FARM REPORTER AT WASHINGTON. Wednesday, August 5, 1931.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION.

Speaking Time: 10 Minutes. All Regions.

CAPONS AND CAPONIZING.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT: Ladies and gentlemen, this is the day Your Washington Farm Reporter broadcasts his regular POULTRY program from Station_______ in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. All right, Mr. Reporter, what's on your mind to-day?

--oOo--

Chickens, Mr. Announcer, that's what's on my mind to-day, and it's there because I'm just back from an interview with our poultry friend, A. R. Lee of the United States Bureau of Animal Industry.

Mr. Lee says that this is a good year to caponize some cockerels.

"Why is it good?" I asked.

"Because," he said, "feed is both cheap and plentiful, and the supply of dressed poultry is likely to be light this fall and winter."

Young, healthy cockerels weighing from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 pounds each should be used to produce capons. These birds will probably consume more feed than growing cockerels, but they will weigh from one to three pounds more than mature cockerels of the same age next winter. Since capons are generally marketed during the winter season it will be necessary to feed them until January or perhaps even February. However, Mr. Lee says that the continued feeding of cockerels generally pays because it makes them heavy, and since they sell by the pound it's to the producer's interest to have them as heavy as possible when they are marketed.

After young roosters are caponized they develop into excellent market fowls. If caponized along in August or early September they are ready for market after the first of the following January. In other words, a capon is at its best when it's from 8 to 10 months old, whereas a rooster of that age is too tough for a roaster.

While a capon will generally weigh a little more than a rooster of the same age, the value in producing capons is not so much for the extra two or three pounds, but in the quality of flesh produced. For instance, Mr. Lee says that there is very little difference in the weight of capons and cockerels up to 6 or 7 months old. However, after that age

the capons surpass the cockerels in both weight and in the quality of flesh produced. It is the quality of the capon flesh, however, that makes capon so popular.

Well-fed capons often resemble turkeys when marketed. This is especially noticeable when capons are marketed in the middle of the winter.

I asked Mr. Lee how capon prices compare with turkey prices, and he said, "Capon prices often compare very favorably with turkey prices, and often sell higher than turkeys. For instance, in most cases capons sold higher than turkeys last winter."

I asked Mr. Lee if it takes special attention or special equipment to produce capons.

"Well," he said, "the answer to that question is both yes, and no. Capons do require a little extra attention until they recover from the effects of the operation. After that, they need no more favors, but they do need a good range."

"Why do capons need such good range?" I asked.

"Because," he said, "they have a long growing period, and unless they have a good range they won't grow and develop properly."

Of course, you knew that a capon is simply an "unsexed" male bird. The capon to the poultry dealer is what the fat steer is to the beef packer----the source of the choicest food product of its kind. Therefore, the real purpose of caponizing is to produce a bird that will make a heavier carcass with sweeter, juicier, and more tender meat than male birds that are permitted to grow normally.

"Mr. Lee," I questioned, "are all breeds suitable for caponizing?"

"Well,---no---" he replied rather slowly. "I don't believe that it pays to caponize Leghorns or similar Mediterranean breeds. I prefer to use only the medium or heavy weight breeds for capons."

Any of the general-purpose breeds or the heavier breeds make excellent capons. For instance, Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, Wyandottes, Brahmas, or Jersey Black Giants are all suitable for caponizing.

"Early summer," Mr. Lee said, is about the best time to caponize. The young cockerels at this time should weigh from one and a half to two and a half pounds per bird, and are from two to three months old. If caponized during the summer season these birds should make excellent market fowls for the winter trade."

As Mr. Lee pointed out, caponizing is not a difficult task, but it is a job that requires a great deal of care, and a little practice, for best results. Persons who want to learn the art of caponizing can gain a great deal of first-hand information by making a careful examination of a bird that is being dressed for the table."

Of course, it would be impossible for me to tell you how to caponize a rooster in a 10-minute radio talk. However, if you are

interested in that phase of the project, let me suggest that you ask Station_____ to send you a free copy of Farmers' Bulletin No.849-F, entitled "CAPONS AND CAPONIZING." This bulletin is well illustrated, and gives detailed instructions on caponizing.

Mr. Lee suggests that after the operation, the birds be confined in a pen by themselves and be fed soft feeds, such as wet mash, not sloppy but crumbly, for several days, or until they appear to be back to normal health again.

Mr. Lee believes that it pays to keep the capons by themselves for as much as 10 days or even 2 weeks after the operation. This prevents other birds from disturbing them until they have completely recovered. This is rather important too because capons will not make satisfactory gains until they recover from the operation.

Confining capons for a week or so after the operation enables the poultryman to examine the birds for "wind puffs" which sometimes appear. All that is necessary is to puncture the wind puff with a clean, sharp-pointed instrument like a knife and apply a disinfectant to the wound. In rare instances wind puffs form two or three times.

After the confinement period is up the capons may be run with the rest of the flock and fed the same as the other growing chickens. They require no special care or feeding during the growing season.

Capons were formerly marketed with feathers on the head, wings, and thighs. However, the tendency now is to pick them clean. If you are planning to ship capons to market next winter it might pay you to find out which way the birds are picked for your particular market.

If you want to select a good capon for your own table next winter, select one with a soft flesh, and one with shrunken comb and wattles. These are the distinguishing features of a good capon.

Now remember folks, this is the first week in August. That means it is caponizing time. Remember also, that the prospects are rather good for a satisfactory capon market next winter.

For further information on caponizing, feeding, killing, dressing, and marketing capons, ask for a copy of Farmers' Bulletin No. 849-F entitled, "CAPONS AND CAPONIZING." This publication is free, and contains plenty of practical information on the subject.

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CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT: This, ladies and gentlemen, closes the Washington Farm Reporter program on Poultry broadcast from Station_____. Write either this station or the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., for a free copy of Farmers' Bulletin No.849-F, called "CAPONS AND CAPONIZING."

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

Radio Service

OFFICE OF
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YOUR FARM REPORTER AT WASHINGTON. Friday, August 7, 1931.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION.

Speaking Time: 10 Minutes. All Regions.

SOME OF THE STRANGE THINGS DAIRY RECORDS REVEAL.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT: Ladies and gentlemen, Your Washington Farm Reporter is ready today with another of his regular DAIRY programs broadcast from Station________in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. The subject for this occassion is, SOME OF THE STRANGE THINGS DAIRY RECORDS REVEAL. All right, Mr. Reporter.

---ooOoo---

Well, folks, my subject today is SOME OF THE STRANGE THINGS DAIRY RECORDS REVEAL. When I think of strange things I'm reminded of the homely girl who was being hugged for the first time by a young man.

"Oh,Mary", exclaimed the somewhat embarrassed father, "it looks so strange to see you embraced by a lover."

"Yes, father," replied the daughter, "and it feels as strange as it looks."

Now if you listening dairymen want to learn some strange facts relative to the keeping of dairy cows, just look over some of the records of the more than a half million cows that are being tested in dairy herd-improvement associations. Some of these records are as strange as they look, and they reveal enough in some instances to make the owners have heart failure.

As I was wondering around the Capital City the other day in search of dairy information for you listeners, I dropped into the office of dairy herd-improvement association of the United States Bureau of Dairy Industry, where I saw James E. Dorman, who interprets the records of the dairy cows in the more than eleven hundred dairy herd-improvement associations in this country, and William E. Wintermeyer, who preaches the gospel of good bulls, better bulls, and proved bulls. The first thing I said was, "Well, boys, what have you found out by looking over the hundreds of thousands of individual cow records thatpass through your hands?"

"Plenty," said Mr. Dorman as he reached for a piece of paper on one corner of his desk. "This paper, he said, "contains some figures which I prepared for the man you met going out the door, and since these figures reveal some strange facts, I'll just pass the information on to you and you can pass it on to the radio audience."

Mr. Dorman then told me of a man who came into his office a few days ago. The man had a record book containing the production records of every cow in his dairy herd under his arm, and in substance said, I'm a business man, I have a 20-cow dairy herd, the cows are in good condition and receive good care and treatment, but I'm not making any money from that herd, and I want you to tell me what's the matter. Here's my record book. It contains the records of each cow in the herd for two years back, and other information that will help you reach an intelligent conclusion.

The records revealed that this particular 20-cow herd returned an income over cost of feed of $1,300 a year. Dividing the herd into two groups of 10 cows each Mr. Dorman found that the first group of 10 cows returned eleven of the thirteen hundred dollar annual income over cost of feed. In other words, the man was making 10 good cows carry 10 poor cows, and that was where the profit was going.

When the man returned Mr. Dorman went over the records with him, pointed out the weak places and then said, "Now, those are the actual facts as revealed by your record book. Use your own judgment in remedying the situation."

"Well," said the man as he placed the record book under his arm and prepared to depart, "we're going to have some fresh beef in our neighborhood before long."

"Now I'll tell one," said Mr. Wintermeyer, who had been listening to the other story.

"Here," he said, as he held up a record sheet, "is the story of a 29-cow dairy herd that averaged 436 pounds of butterfat per cow per year. Contrast this record with the record of another herd of 40 cows in the same community and in the same dairy herd-improvement association whose cows averaged 276 pounds of butterfat per year per cow.

"It cost on an average of $150 a year per cow to feed the cows in the 29-cow herd, while it cost approximately $121 a year to feed each cow in the 40-cow herd.

"The average annual income over cost of feed for each cow in the 29-cow herd amounted to $248 per cow, while the average income per cow in the 40-cow herd amounted to $148 per cow, or exactly $100 per cow less than it amounted to in the 29-cow herd.

"The total annual income over cost of feed for the 29-cow herd amounted to $7,192 compared to $5,920 for the 40-cow herd.

The smaller herd had eleven less cows than the larger herd yet it returned an annual income over cost of feed of $1,272 more than the larger

herd. The owner of the 40-cow herd had to milk and care for eleven more cows than the owner of the 29-cow herd, yet he made less money and produced a little less butterfat than did the owner of the smaller herd. The moral to that story is it isn't the number of cows in a herd that counts, but it's the quality of each and every cow in the herd.

"I'll tell another one," said Mr. Dorman, and this one will be even stranger than the first two.

"The dairy herd-improvement association records from one State containing the actual records of about 2,000 cows revealed the strange fact that 30 of the 2,000 cows produced on an average of 14 pounds of butterfat per year per cow. Think of it. A cow giving milk for a whole year, 365 days or whatever portion of that she was milking, and producing only 14 pounds of butterfat. One good cow alone ought to produce 420 pounds of butterfat in a year, or as much as these thirty 14- pounders."

"Of course, dairymen who keep records find out these strange facts, and it doesn't take a progressive dairyman long to remedy the situation when the records reveal that certain cows are below the profit line. That's why well-kept records keep so many dairymen out of the hole, and why some dairymen get out of the hole after they slip in, and it's why I congratulate every dairyman who keeps a production record of each and every cow in the herd. It pays in dollars and cents to keep production records of dairy cows."

While visiting with Wintermeyer and Dorman I was shown a table which reveals that it pays to continue testing cows from year to year, rather than jumping in and out at irregular intervals. For instance, one dairyman had his herd tested continuously for three years with the following results: In 1926 he had 16 cows that averaged 303 pounds of butterfat per cow and returned an income over cost of feed of $1,472. In 1927 he had 27 cows that averaged 321 pounds of butterfat per cow and returned an income over cost of feed of $2,835. In 1928 his 27 cows averaged 345 pounds of butterfat and returned an income over cost of feed of $3,024. In other words, continuous records helped that dairyman to increase his profit from year to year.

Well-kept dairy records reveal a lot of strange things. When dairy cows are close to the dead-line, that's a mighty good time to keep production records, because they reveal the strange sights along the road between profit and loss.

If you want further information on the value of keeping production records, or on how to keep production records, get in touch with your county agent, your own State college of agriculture or write to the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT: This, ladies and gentlemen, closes the Washington Farm Reporter program broadcast from Station____ in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Radio Service

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

YOUR FARM REPORTER AT WASHINGTON. RELEASE Monday, August 10, 1931

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Speaking Time: 10 Minutes

Crops and Soils Interview No. 32: Some Home Storage Problems

ANNOUNCEMENT: Station _______ and the United States Department of Agriculture now present your farm reporter at Washington. As usual, he reports to us what he has gathered from talks with specialists of the Department --- Well, Mr. Reporter, what's in store for us this time? -----

--ooOoo--

What is in store for you will depend a lot on what you put in store -- And how!

I have just picked up some suggestions from our specialists about home storage --- home storage of late vegetables and farm storage of grains --- wheat and corn and other grains.

Dr. E. A. Back, in charge of the division of stored-product insects of the Bureau of Entomology, tells me that lack of knowledge of ways to control the insects that get in grain has caused many a farmer to sell the newly harvested grain, when he might have had better prices by holding it for awhile.

Yes, sir, he says insects actually cause many persons to sell when the market is low, only to buy at a greater price grain shipped in from somewhere else when prices are high. However, he finds more and more farmers have come to realize that insect losses can be prevented once the crop is harvested and stored. Treatment is not hard.

Federal and State grain inspectors at all our grain centers, such as Chicago, Kansas City, New Orleans, and Minneapolis, and Baltimore can testify to the losses suffered by farmers in the form of discounts owing to the presence of weevils in wheat when it reaches market from the farm. And in the one State of Alabama it is estimated that in one year weevils cost corn growers at least $4,000,000, while in Pennsylvania there is a loss of from $1,000,000 to $3,000,000 a year on account of the Angoumois grain moth alone.

Here and there, Dr. Back says, you can still find grain farmers who think that insects develop spontaneously from the germ of the grain. What

happens in the case of some of our worst grain pests is that they burrow into the kernel of the grain when very young and grow by earing out the inside of the seed. When you realize that even a man who specializes in insect study can not always be sure the kernel has been attacked without using a microscope, it is little wonder most people once thought the insects originated inside the grain.

The damage is not particularly noticeable until the insect inside the kernel matures and eats its way out. Then of course it leaves a hole that is easily seen, and we speak of the grain as "weevil cut". The insects stay dormant during cold weather, and only eat their way out when the temperature gets fairly high.

Dr. Back suggests that if you find insects already attacking your grain at harvest time, it is money in your pocket to fumigate promptly, so as to kill them off. It is easier and pays better to control insects when they are few than to wait until they are noticeably abundant. If you kill the insect in the kernel before it has time to develop, you may save yourself heavy losses. It pays much better to fumigate early and successfully than to send infested grain to the elevator or mill and get a lower price.

As we all know, the fag-end of last year's crop is generally the part that is most badly damaged by insects. What a lot of farmers don't realize, however, is that the rice weevil and the Angoumois grain moth that live over winter in the grain in his bins or cribs can and do fly to near-by fields of ripening wheat and corn as those crops are nearing maturity, and lay eggs upon the wheat heads or corn kernels. They infest the grain when it is in or passing the "milk" stage.

So you see, by treating promptly after harvest you not only save the grain in storage but help protect your next year's crop.

Dr. Back doesn't recommend fumigation in most farm cribs when the temperature of the grain is below 60 to 65 degrees. Most successful grain fumigations are carried on at temperatures ranging from 75 to 95 degrees. He says the ideal way to fumigate is to put the grain into a very tight bin or other container. The best containers are made of metal or concrete. First-rate cribs for treating are being made of brick, and hollow tile, and concrete, and galvanized iron; but even a dry-goods box can be made tight enough by lining it with several thicknesses of heavy paper. And grain piled on the ground can be fumigated with fair results if it is properly covered with a good tarpaulin.

However, if you want information on fumigation, Dr. Back suggests you get hold of the Farmers' Bulletin No. 1483 on the "Control of Insect Pests in Stored Grain". That bulletin No. 1483 will not only give you definite instructions on how to fumigate, but will tell you the characteristics of the different fumigants, so you can select the one which best fits your particular conditions. Farmers Bulletin No. 1483.

Now let me report to you another way you may be able to save money. I'm speaking now particularly to vegetable growers, especially those with good sized late gardens.

Mr. James H. Beattie, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, suggests that

successful storage of vegetables is not all difficult. In fact, he says, that good storage facilities already exist in most homes. All you have to do is make use of the cellar, or maybe it is the attic, or a large closet, or other parts of the house ---- Of course, it depends on what you have to store.

Mr. Beattie claims it is good economy to store vegetables and good economy to grow late vegetables to store. Beans of various kinds, including Lima beans, may be stored dry. Beets, late cabbage, carrots, celery, onions, parsnips, potatoes, sweet potatoes, salsify, and turnips may all be stored in their natural condition.

And he points out that not only is it possible to cut the cost of the menu materially by growing and storing vegetables for home use, but the satisfaction of having a supply of fresh vegetables near at hand is something that can't be measured in dollars and cents.

In that way, you can have a varied list of foods regardless of markets and winter temperatures.

A half-acre garden, if cared for properly, will produce far more vegetables than the average family can eat during the time the vegetables are maturing. But if most of the vegetables grown are ones that can be stored you can get a lot out of the garden long after it is gone.

Of course, when you grow considerable quantities of vegetables, it is often advisable to build permenent storage facilities in the form of storage room in the basement of the house, or under an out-building or to build an outdoor cellar of wood or masonry.

However, if you have no such permanent facilities available, you can keep the late root crops in outdoor pits or banks, which call for no cash outlay except labor.

There is a bulletin that gives plans for the different types of storage houses and pits. It is Farmers' Bulletin No. 879 on "Home Storage of Vegetables". It will also tell how to store the various crops and picture the whole proposition to you much more vividly than I can in a short report. Farmers Bulletin No. 879.

And while we are mentioning money saving bulletins, let me also call your attention to Leaflet No. 30 on "Cutting the Farm Woods 'Profitwise'".

It is very evident from the studies made by the Forest Products Laboratory that it is not wise to cut your farm woods otherwise than in a careful, selective sort of way.

For instance, the forestry experts of that organization have found that maple trees less than 12 to 14 inches in diameter actually do not pay their way through a band saw-mill if sawed into standard lumber. The lumber from large trees is worth more than that from small ones, and the logs are also worth more per thousand feet. The owner of a farm woods gets more for his work cutting only the larger logs and pricing them according to their value.

That leaflet suggests you can add greatly to the value of your woods by giving them protection and by judicious thinning so as to give the individual trees the room they need --- but better get that leaflet --- It is Leaflet No. 30.

---ooOoo---

ANNOUNCEMENT: The publications mentioned can be had either by writing to this Station or by writing direct to the United States Department of Agriculture. They are free as long as the supply lasts. Let me repeat the names and numbers. "Cutting Farm Woods Profitwise" is Leaflet No. 30. "Home Storage of Vegetables" is Farmers Bulletin No. 879. And "Control of Insect Pests in Stored Grain" is Farmers Bulletin No. 1483.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

Radio Service

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

YOUR FARM REPORTER AT WASHINGTON Wednesday, August 12, 1931

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Speaking Time: 10 Minutes. All Regions.

FALL MANAGEMENT OF PERMANENT PASTURES.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT: At this time Station ______ presents Your Washington Farm Reporter who is going to talk about the FALL MANAGEMENT OF PERMANENT PASTURES. That's such an important and timely subject that we're going to start the program right now. Mr. Reporter, you're on the air.

--ooOoo--

Folks, I want to talk to you today about filling the gasoline tank on the automobile before it runs dry. You know it's a lot easier to check up on the gasoline supply at home in the shade than to carry a can of gasoline down a hot, dusty highway.

So experienced motorists check up on the gasoline supply, and even the entire automobile before beginning a long journey. In the same way successful farmers check up on livestock and feed conditions at given periods throughout the year, but especially during the late summer when pastures are often short or perhaps "burned up."

An animal without feed is comparable to an automobile with an empty gas tank. Both are useful and valuable ONLY when properly managed.

It won't be long now until cool weather, Jack Frost and Old Man Winter will be coming around the corner. Before they get here, check up on your PASTURES and satisfy yourself that they are in good physical condition and ready for the long journey through the winter season. Such a precaution taken at this time of year often results in a better pasture next spring.

For best results with permanent pastures it's necessary to look ahead and perhaps do a little planning. For instance, if you want a good early pasture next spring --- now is the time to start working toward that goal. A pasture is not necessarily influenced by what took place yesterday, but more generally it is influenced by what took place several weeks or several months ago. That's why I'm talking to you about the fall management of permanent pastures today because what you do or fail to do to your pasture this fall will likely speak for itself next spring and summer, and perhaps throughout the year.

What I am saying at this time about the fall treatment of pastures of course, applies to normal pastures and normal seasons and conditions. The pasture question is more or less a local question, and during unusually wet seasons or extreme dry seasons it may be necessary to consult your county agent or even visit your State agricultural experiment station for information applicable to your particular situation.

Harry Vinall is a pasture investigator for the United States Department of Agriculture. His boyhood days in Kansas acquainted him with pasture conditions in that great section of the country called the CORN BELT. His work, since he joined Uncle Sam's forces, nearly a quarter of a century ago, has acquainted him with pasture conditions practically all over the country. Therefore, I interviewed Mr. Vinall on this pasture question. He opened up in this manner:

"To begin with there is nothing that will help a pasture during a long dry spell of weather, such as we often have in the late summer, except a good, soaking rain. Under normal rainfall conditions there are, however, a few things that can be done in the fall to help a permanent pasture go through the winter.

"Now," said Vinall, "I'm going to give you some pointers on the fall management of pastures. Of course you understand that I'm talking about permanent pastures, and naturally conditions differ in different sections of the country, but the underlying principles are about the same and apply pretty well all over the country."

I am now ready to give you pasture pointers, but before doing so I want to pause a moment for you to get a pencil and paper because the pointers I am going to give you are not available just now in a Department of Agriculture publication. Are you ready?

"First, give pastures a two-weeks rest from grazing in the fall of the year just before winter sets in. Such a precaution permits the plants to store up reserve food in the roots. This stored food enables them to withstand the adversities of the winter season and gives them a better start the following spring. Therefore, the first big point in the fall management of pastures is to remove grazing animals a little before the end of the GROWING season so that the plants can get ready for the winter siege.

"Second, a light application of some nitrogenous fertilizer in LATE AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER will increase the fall growth and usually lengthen the grazing season.

"Third, After the animals are removed harrow the pasture to scatter livestock droppings, and insure a more uniform and more palatable growth from the plants the following year.

"Fourth, if limestone is to be applied, fall is the ideal time of the year to make the application as fall rains, and freezings and thawings during the winter will carry the lime down to where the plants may use it.

"Fifth, drain wet spots in your pasture this fall. Water standing on the land encourages the growth of sedges and rushes where good grass might better be growing.

"Sixth, stop erosion in the pasture by filling the gullies with brush, cornstalks or other similar material.

"Seventh and last, apply a light topdressing of barnyard manure on the thinner spots in the pasture to make such spots productive and provide a uniform turf."

That completes Vinall's pointers on the fall management of livestock pastures. Let's check over some of the more important ones again and see how they fit in with YOUR livestock pasture management plans for this season.

Remember the big pointer --- namely --- that pastures need a rest before starting the winter journey. That's under our control. Take the grazing livestock off and let the plants GROW a little before Old Man Winter comes in sight.

Fall is an ideal time to apply limestone, commercial fertilizers, and barnyard manure to permanent pastures, but of course, not ALL at the same time. Consult your county agent, or your State college of agriculture about the time, amount, and nature of the application.

Do you plan to put in any new pasture this fall? If so, Vinall suggests that if you have the available land, that you put some pasture on low land that is generally moist even in dry weather so that it will furnish pasture even during periods of DROUGHT.

Now folks, I'm going back to Mr. Vinall after I get through celebrating Christmas and try to get him to tell me what to do with permanent pastures in the early spring. I want to do all I can to help you livestock producers obtain the most feed from your pastures. In other words, I want you to fill your gasoline tank before you begin a long motor trip, and check up on your pasture this fall before winter gets here. Why not try some of Vinall's suggestions on your pasture this fall?

If you failed to catch the pasture pointers I have just given, ask this station for a copy of the FARM REPORTER RADIO TALK FOR AUGUST 12, 1931. If you want additional pasture information consult your county agent, your State college of agriculture, or you may write directly to the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C.

--ooOoo--

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT: You have just listened to one of the regular Farm Reporter programs broadcast from _______ in cooperation with the Federal Department of Agriculture. Write this station if you want a copy of the FARM REPORTER RADIO TALK FOR AUGUST 12, 1931.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Radio Service

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

YOUR FARM REPORTER AT WASHINGTON Friday, August 14, 1931

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Speaking Time: 10 Minutes. All Regions.

THE DAIRY FARMER OF THE FUTURE

ANNOUNCEMENT: Your Farm Reporter at Washington is here at this time, ready with his weekly report for dairy farmers. He tells me he's been talking again this week with our old friend Dr. J. C. McDowell, veteran dairy husbandman of the Department of Agriculture. So you may expect that he has something interesting to tell you. All right, Mr. Reporter, what is it this time?

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If you were gifted at crystal-gazing --- and if you gazed into the crystal and wished up a picture of dairy farming 25, 50, or 100 years from now --- what would you expect to see?

This, in effect, is what I asked Dr. McDowell to do for me. I asked him to describe for me the dairy farmer of the future as he would expect the crystal to reveal him.

He took a little time to think about it, jotted down his main ideas, and then called to say that the crystal was working. What Dr. McDowell has to say, I need hardly remind you, is based upon something more solid than crystal-gazing. It is based upon long years of experience in dairying; upon modern trends within the industry; and upon progress in dairy-farming, as Dr. McDowell has a rare opportunity to observe it in his capacity as leader of dairy herd-improvement work for the Department of Agriculture. Records of thousands of herds and hundreds of thousands of dairy cows come into Dr. McDowell's office each year. So for these reasons I was especially interested in learning his thoughts on the future.

I might sum them up like this: The farmer of the future will own a herd of healthy cows; he will eliminate all unprofitable producers; he will provide high-producing cows to take the place of those culled out; he will appreciate the value of the dairy cow in maintaining the fertility of his soil.

Under no circumstances will the dairyman of the future maintain a herd that is not tested for tuberculosis. Frequent testing for contagious abortion will be a common practice. He will be constantly on guard to prevent introduction of these or any other diseases into his herd.

In culling his herd, he will be sure no cow remains which does not bring in some profit. As the years go by, he will cull closer and closer, until his herd eventually contains only very high producers. In other words, he will eliminate the low producers at the bottom and add high producers at the top.

What does Dr. McDowell mean by the term low-producer?

"I would say," he told me, "that the future dairy farmer would likely begin by eliminating all cows that produce less than 250 pounds of butter fat per year. Soon he would be eliminating those producing under 300 pounds. Finally he would raise the minimum level of production to 400 pounds, or perhaps even higher."

Now, to provide high-producing cows to replace the low producers, the future dairyman will rely on his experience and intelligence, --- that is, in selecting a sire to head his herd.

First, he will select purebred sires of excellent ancestry. He will not be satisfied with this, however. He will at once begin to prove this sire.

A sire whose daughters do not excel their high-producing dams will be disposed of regardless of pedigree. Performance, rather than pedigree, will be the watchword. Bulls that do not prove their ability to get high-producing daughters will soon find their way to the butcher.

In these days to come, a bull will NOT be sent to the butcher because he is ugly. If the vicious bull is a great sire --- if his offspring come up to a high standard --- he will be kept, but under absolute control. The farmer of the future must have means of caring for and housing his proved and partly-proved bulls without danger to himself, his family, or his hired help.

The dairy farmer of the future will feed roughages consisting largely of silage and legumes. On most farms alfalfa or some other legume will be grown in abundance. It will furnish a large part of the protein needed in the dairy cow's ration. Home-grown concentrates, such as corn and barley, will be mixed with just enough purchased feed to make up a fairly well-balanced ration. By growing all roughages and most of his concentrate feeds the farmer of the future will keep his expenses low. And on the other hand, by keeping only high producers in his herd, he will build up a good income. Success in farming in the future, as now, will depend largely on these two things --- keeping expenses below receipts.

Then, there's the question of providing for soil fertility. Any type of farming, to be a continuous success, must do that. And, says Dr. McDowell, there are few types of farming that maintain the soil fertility better than dairy farming. Soils in dairy districts are among the most productive in the world. The cows feed the soil --- and the soil, thus enriched, produces crops that feed the cow. These larger crops, in turn, support more cows, and more cows bring greater crops, with which to feed still larger herds. This is like rolling a giant snow-ball down-hill. The farther you go, the more you have. And each revolution brings, in this case, an increase in soil fertility.

"To be sure," Dr. McDowell commented, "few dairy farmers get rich. But on the other hand relatively few dairy farmers are poverty-stricken. Dairy incomes, as a rule, give a comfortable living, and in our dairy districts you'll usually find comfortable homes, prosperous churches, and first-class schools.

"I would expect to find it this way everywhere in communities of the dairy farmers of the future. Their cows will be carefully selected, well bred and well fed; they will maintain a high state of soil fertility; and they will bring their owners satisfactory net incomes. I would expect to see, in the crystal, better homes, better churches, better schools, and a better living for the dairy farmer and his family."

ANNOUNCEMENT: Your Farm Reporter at Washington has just brought you the results of his interview with Dr. J. C. McDowell on "The Dairy Farmer of the Future." This concludes Your Farm Reporter's radio chats from Station _____ for this week.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
Radio Service
OFFICE OF
INFORMATION

YOUR FARM REPORTER AT WASHINGTON RELEASE Monday, August 17, 1931

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Speaking Time: 10 Minutes.

Crops and Soils Interview No. 33: Foresight vs. Foreclosure

ANNOUNCEMENT: Your farm reporter at Washington has another report for us now. He has again been to various specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture and again brings us facts from them on several subjects --- His report today includes such diverse topics as terracing to save soil and better planning of farm mortgage debts ---- Well, Mr. Reporter?

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When it comes to debts, a lot of us think we can qualify as experts. We have learned a lot about them from long and hard experience.

Yet Mr. David L. Wickens, of the Agricultural Finance division of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, says that most farmers give better attention to planning their cropping program of a single season than they do to the mortgage debt that may run on for a generation.

Mr. Wickens has been studying long-term farm financing in this country and suggests it is high time we consider what can be done to get favorable long-time loans when we need them and how to avoid being distressed by them later on. He finds that more loans are made at high rates than at low rates and that most of them are made for an average of five years although the debts run on for an average of 30 years. That is, the debt runs on that long, but the mortgage has to be renewed again and again and often at inconvenient times.

The usual term of five years may be suitable for some cases, but the farmer who depends largely on his farm for his income usually has to renew the loan five or six times with the expense, uncertainty, and inconvenience which that involves.

Mr. Wickens suggests that we could get around such renewal troubles by the amortization type of loan. That is, a loan which provides for a gradual retirement of the principal by means of small regular payments over a long period of 20 to 35 years. While straight loans for short terms may save you some inconvenience and sacrifice in paying regular installments on the principal, Mr. Wickens doubts that we gain in the long run. If land values stay

down at the end of a short term loan, the lender may insist on cutting down the size of the loan as a condition of renewal! A lot of farmers ran into that trouble a couple of years back. And a sudden reduction like that is likely to cause more inconvenience than a small annual payment which you can provide for in advance. Moreover, Mr. Wickens says, a system of small annual payments steadily increases the safety margin, so that lenders are less likely to foreclose.

As he points out, most of our loans are too big to be paid off by what savings we can make during the few years of the usual loan term. When the due date comes, most of us haven't been able to save enough to pay up, and the only way we can take care of the situation is to make a new loan or get an extension on the old one. What's more a lot of us don't save systematically unless we have previously budgeted our incomes carefully. Long-term amortization loans on which we would pay regular annual installments to gradually reduce the principal would do away with the need for renewals and the embarrassments that often go with them.

Another thing we need to be a little more long headed about is the size of the loan. Although most lending agencies limit loans to about half of the land values, second mortgages or purchase money mortgages given to the seller may be used to get an amount of credit equal to most of the farm's current value. In this situation, Mr. Wickens suggests, it would usually be better to gauge the amount of the loan by the amount which the average income from the land can take care of rather than by the current sale value of the farm. A loan with a rate of interest higher than the net rental value of the farm carries a danger of making trouble.

Careful management of a farm-mortgage debt also means that it should be made or renewed when the supply and cost of money are favorable. We can't go into that phase of the subject in this short report, but Mr. Wickens advises that any farmer with mortgage financing to do would do well to keep the same watch on the course of the money market that he is accustomed to give to the crop and livestock markets.

From what I gather from talking to the various specialists of the Department, the days of free-handed, loose-jointed farming are past. And in that connection, I want to call your attention to Farmers' Bulletin No. 1139 on "Analyzing the Farm Business".

Of course, we all realize that good cows pay better than poor ones, and that good crops are more desirable than those that barely pay for harvesting. The trouble is that a good many of us have no way of finding out just how good or just how poor our farm business really is. We don't get it down in cold figures and then analyze those figures to see what are our strong and weak points. We think we know. Maybe we do. But let's be sure. That Farmers' Bulletin No. 1139 outlines a good way to find out. It aims to help us to a better understanding of the financial side of our business.

A farm can not properly be called successful unless it pays a fair rate of interest on the capital, returns fair wages for the farmer's labor, and, at the same time, maintains or increases the fertility of the soil.

One of the most striking evidences that some farmers are not keeping up the fertility of their soil is the fact that not less than 10,000,000 acres of land that used to be cultivated in these United States has been so badly washed that it is now out of production for keeps, and another 3,000,000 acres of formerly rich bottom land has been made worthless by overwash of sand and gravel and by increased swampiness due to overflow caused by the clogging of stream channels with silt, and sand and gravel. It is estimated that the washing away of the earth is costing farmers in this country something like $200,000,000, a year.

And that is not just gully washing either. A lot of it comes from what the soils people call "sheet erosion", which planes off the top soil in many cases without the farmers even noticing it until too late.

However, I am glad to report that Mr. C. E. Ramser, of the new Bureau of Agricultural Engineering has prepared a bulletin which tells ways of controlling losses from washing by terraces. It is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1386 on "Terracing Farm Lands."

Mr. Ramser says that properly planned, well-built and carefully maintained terrace systems have demonstrated their merits in practically all sections of the country where terracing has been tried. Yet there are some farmers who have done terracing of their own farms who condemn the practice, and condemn it strongly.

An examination of the terraces on those farms, however, almost invariably reveals that the causes for the terrace failures were due to the terraces being poorly planned, or improperly laid out, or not built right, or just carelessly maintained.

As Mr. Ramser points out, one of the outstanding causes of terrace failures is the failure to prevent water from draining on to a terraced field from higher, adjoining unterraced land.

Errors in locating the terrace lines are responsible for a great many failures, as are mistakes of construction. That bulletin gives some good ideas on how to terrace, but you men who have already seen the wisdom of checking soil washing and have built good terraces to begin with, let me remind you that "well begun, is half done", but only half.

Many farmers seem to think that after a terrace is once constructed it needs no more attention. Mr. Ramser says that where systematic maintenance is practiced not much work is needed each year to keep the terraces to the required height and width with a plow or by making a few rounds with a terracing implement.

Burrowing animals, large cracks that develop during dry spells, and low places in the top of the terrace caused by dragging farm machinery across are often causes of serious breaks that could be avoided by small amount of work to repair the damage. The gradual filling in of the terrace channel from the movement of soil down the slope between terraces will eventually reduce the size of the terrace channel. But that can be prevented by moving the filled in soil from the channel to the terrace embankment every year.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: The bulletins mentioned by your farm reporter at Washington are free as long as the supply lasts. The one on "Terracing Farm Lands" is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1386 and "Analyzing the Farm Business" is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1139. Either or both of the bulletins may be had by writing to this Station _______ or by writing direct to the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C.

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UNITED STATES
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Radio Service
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YOUR FARM REPORTER AT WASHINGTON Wednesday, August 19, 1931

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Speaking Time: 10 Minutes. All Regions.

FALL DISEASE TROUBLES --- AND VACCINATION

ANNOUNCEMENT: Your Farm Reporter at Washington has been talking with a Department of Agriculture research scientist about poultry diseases. Now he brings you a report of this interview, with special attention to diseases that occur in early fall. All right, Mr. Reporter ....

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This poultry dieases scientist I talked with was Dr. W. B. Shook, of the Bureau of Animal Industry. I've introduced you to Dr. Shook before --- but this time, we particularly want to find out what Dr. Shook recommends about new ways of combating diseases. I mean such modern methods as vaccination, the tuberculin test, the agglutination testing for B.W.D.

More and more poultrymen are making use of vaccines, Dr. Shook told me. And generally speaking, they're getting good results. Take chicken pox, for instance. With recent improvements in the chicken-pox vaccines, Dr. Shook believes that vaccination for this disease will pay poultry raisers under many conditions.

Now, here are a few tips for you --- points that Dr. Shook emphasizes.

Remember --- vaccination is one of the best means of preventing chicken pox --- BUT, vaccination is NOT recommended for all flocks.

It is recommended in an area where chicken pox commonly occurs or where the disease occurs in a flock year after year.

Consult a veterinarian. The results from vaccination depend largely upon two things. The use of the proper vaccine and the method of application. A competent veterinarian may save you a lot of unnecessary trouble and expense.

Let's take a minute to do a little reviewing. Years ago it was thought that chicken pox was one disease and diphtheria was another. Now it is known that they are one and the same. It was discovered that the same virus which causes warts and nodules to form on the head was also responsible for the

cheesy patches in the mouth and eyes, which are characteristic of diphtheria. These are but internal and external symptoms of the same disease.

Now this virus which causes chicken pox is so minute that it passes through the finest filter, and can not be seen even under the most powerful microscope. But we know that the disease <u>is</u> strictly an infectious disease. It never develops as a result of dampness or drafts -- although these conditions undoubtedly <u>do</u> favor its spread after it once develops. Contagion is usually introduced into a flock by infected birds. They may be birds purchased from other flocks --- or birds of the home flock which have somehow been exposed --- and sometimes they are wild birds or pigeons which fly from one poultry yard to another. Biting insects, such as mites, also probably play a part spreading chicken pox. And the infection MAY be carried on the clothing, shoes, or on poultry-house equipment.

Therefore, Dr. Shook makes these suggestions. Put newly purchased fowls, and fowls that have been exhibited at shows, into quarantine for two weeks. Then examine them before you allow them to mingle with your healthy flock.

When chicken pox does appear, isolate all sick birds immediately, in quarters that have been cleaned and disinfected. At the same time clean and disinfect the house and yards of the well birds in the flock.

The only thing to do with badly diseased birds it to kill and burn them. However, medicinal treatment is sometimes helpful in <u>mild</u> cases. For details of this treatment --- and for other information on chicken pox --- let me refer you to Farmers' Bulletin No 1652-F called "Diseases and Parasites of Poultry."

In many respects chicken pox and roup are very similar. Both are brought into the poultry yard in about the same way --- that is, both are spread by other fowls, and flying birds, and so on. Both are caused by a virus, the microbe in which can neither be filtered nor seen under a microscope. In roup there are no warts on the comb, face or wattles; and there is no thick, tough cheese-like material in the mouth and throat. Roup does sometimes cause a deposit of yellowish material in the throat and mouth, but this is easily broken up and removed.

The characteristic early symptoms of roup are depression, loss of appetite, inactiveness, rough plumage, and sneezing.

For the complete facts about roup and methods of treating it, I'll have to refer you again to Farmers' Bulletin No. 1652. I'll just take time here for two or three suggestions Dr. Shook considers very important.

In the early stages of roup, he said, it is often possible to cure birds by individual medical treatment. But it is extremely important that all birds suspected of having roup be put to themselves in clean, comfortable quarters. For safety's sake <u>badly</u> affected birds must be destroyed immediately.

"Clean and disinfect all houses and yards frequently." Dr. Shook advises. "Clean drinking fountains and feed hoppers every day. The use of permanganate of potash in the proportion of 1/3 teaspoonful to each gallon of drinking water, tends to keep the water pure. Keep fresh solutions of this permanganate of potash before chickens at all times during the period of infection. Remember that when the solution loses its pink color it has lost its power as an antiseptic."

The latest thing in prevention and treatment of roup is vaccination, with what is known as a roup bacterin. This bacterin seems to be valuable in two ways. Birds treated with it in the early stages of the disease seem to escape severe illness, and recover more rapidly. And when it is given to birds that are apparently well, but which have been exposed, it brings immunity.

You can doubtless get this roup bacterin through your veterinarian. And you can get further information about it by writing to the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C.

Now just a word about the use of the tuberculin test on poultry. It has proved very satisfactory, being just about as reliable with poultry as with cattle. It tells the poultry raiser which of his birds are diseased. It is not yet recommended for general farm use, however, because of the expense. But it is recommended --- and is widely used --- for valuable breeding flocks and other special flocks where the owner wants to be absolutely sure tuberculosis doesn't get a foothold.

Now, a few words about B.W.D., also known as pullorum disease in chicks and adult birds.

The question as to how best to conquer this disease is continually coming up, and the vast amount of experimental work that has been done with B. W. D. has resulted in convincing us of the importance of preventing the infection occuring in hatching eggs.

We know the disease is incurable, so we must go to the source of the infection, which is the infected hen, eliminate her from the flock, if any progress is to be made in the eradication of this particular disease.

Now how will this be possible to detect the infected hen? A blood test is necessary for the detection of B.W.D. This requires the collection of blood samples from each bird in a given flock, and sending the blood samples to laboratories that do this work. Some of the state experiment stations are doing this work of testing for B.W.D. If they can not do your testing, they may be able to advise you how you can get it done, or your State veterinarian may be able to help you in this respect.

Meanwhile, Dr. Shook suggests that if possible, you get your hatching eggs from a hatcheryman whose eggs come from blood-tested hens. Or, if you can raise your own breeding stock, have them blood tested. In this way, you can eliminate the great majority of infected birds; and thus reduce chance of infection to the minimum.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Your Farm Reporter at Washington has just told you about his interview with Dr. W. B. Shook, of the Department of Agriculture, on methods of fighting poultry disease. You can get copies of that bulletin he mentioned --- free of charge --- by writing either to Station ______ or to the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C. The bulletin is called "Diseases and Parasites of Poultry," and it is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1652-F.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
Radio Service
OFFICE OF
INFORMATION

YOUR FARM REPORTER AT WASHINGTON. Friday, August 21, 1931

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Speaking Time: 10 minutes. All Regions.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROBLEMS OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT: Every few days Your Washington Farm Reporter has a personal interview with some livestock specialist in the United States Bureau of Animal Industry. The radio talk which is to be broadcast from __________ at this time is the result of Your Farm Reporter's interview with Mr. D. S. Burch, assistant to the chief of Uncle Sam's Bureau of Animal Industry. The subject of this talk is, RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROBLEMS OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION, and Your Farm Reporter now has the "mike."

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Well folks, I have some information for you this time — about a publication issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. This 14-page bulletin is Miscellaneous Publication No. 81-MP, and is called RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY ON PROBLEMS OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION. Dr. John R. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry is the author of this publication which is a clear, crisp summary of previous statements he has made and in addition, contains much new information in condensed form.

Crossing of breeds, grading up, inbreeding, better feeding, runty livestock, poultry tips, and the future of the livestock industry are just a few of the many subjects discussed in this publication.

I heard about this publication before it came out, and promptly went in search of Dr. Mohler to find out what his bulletin would say on some of the popular livestock subjects I have just mentioned. Dr. Mohler was not in Washington the morning I called at his office, but I found his trusty assistant, Mr. D. S. Burch, so I persuaded him to let me look at the bulletin and then I turned my question gun on him for additional information.

When I was a little boy and lived in the Middle West, I used to hear farmers talk about crossing Holstein and Hereford cattle in order to get a cow better for both milk and beef. Naturally I was anxious to hear what Dr. Mohler had to say on that subject, so, my first query was about the crossing of breeds.

"Well," said Mr. Burch, "on page two of this publication Dr. Mohler says; 'The crossing of established breeds of livestock of different types, such as <u>beef and dairy</u> cattle, seldom gives the results ex-

pected and is usually an UNDESIRABLE PRACTICE. The crossing of longwool on fine-wool sheep, especially in the range States, is an exception to this rule. Similar types of livestock, particularly swine, when crossbred, often make excellent animals for general utility and market purposes, but their OFFSPRING have such mixed heredity that they are practically USELESS in systematic herd improvement. Consistent work with one well-chosen breed is more likely to give satisfaction and be profitable than attempts at crossbreeding."

During the last few years we have herd a great deal about improving livestock, especially cattle, and more especially <u>dairy</u> cattle, through the use of a good sire. I was anxious to hear from Dr. Mohler on that important subject, and so that was my next question.

"Grading up herds and flocks by the use of purebred sires of INDIVIDUAL MERIT is an economical and practical means of livestock improvement. The benefits accumulate rapidly in such respects as GREATER UNIFORMITY, IMPROVED QUALITY, AND INCREASED UTILITY VALUE."

Inbreeding is a much discussed subject among livestock breeders at the present time. In discussing this subject with me, Mr. O. N. Eaton, genetic investigator for the department once told me that inbreeding was a powerful factor, and a DANGEROUS tool in the hands of the unskilled. I thought it would be interesting to have Dr. Mohler's views on this so I directed my spotlight to that subject.

"You are digging down into some pretty technical livestock problems now," said Mr. Burch. "Do you think you can make them clear and interesting over the radio?"

"Yes sir," I replied. "People, and especially livestock producers, are interested in these matters and they want more information, especially if it's sound and practical.

"All right," conceded Mr. Burch, "we are anxious to get all this information out to the public and here's what Dr. Mohler says on that subject. 'Inbreeding should be practiced ONLY by the most skillful breeders and by them ONLY when they have definite knowledge of the ancestry of their animals and are prepared for possible DISAPPOINTMENT in the results obtained. Inbreeding for market production is an unwise procedure. Intensive inbreeding brings to light hidden characteristics and quickly leads to a fixation of type. There is ever present, however, the possibility that POOR rather than GOOD characteristics will be brought to light and FIXED.----- thus resulting in rapid <u>degeneration</u> of the stock."

I don't mind telling you listeners that in the section where I grew up we had plenty of "razor-back" hogs, striped mules, "hoptagoola" cattle and other forms of <u>runty</u> livestock. Of course such livestock is ALL GONE from that section now, but I still have a hankering to know just <u>why</u> one animal is runty and another robust and healthy. So, I had that runty livestock question marked down so I would think to ask about it.

According to Dr. Mohler-----"Runtiness in farm livestock is largely PREVENTABLE by BETTER BREEDING----PROPER FEEDING-----CONTROL OF DISEASES

and PARASITES, and PROPER HOUSING and ATTENTION. "Weaning time," says Dr. Mohler, "is a CRITICAL period and farm animals should receive ESPECIALLY GOOD FEED and care THEN to prevent interruption to growth."

Poultry is attracting a great deal of attention at present, so I shot a chicken question at Mr. Burch, and now here's the reply to that question.

"Success in keeping poultry for egg production depends largely on a good yield of eggs late in the fall and winter. To obtain this result it is necessary to hatch chickens early in the spring so that they will begin to lay when the hens are molting. The PREFERRED hatching period is during MARCH AND APRIL, but the period chosen naturally depends on the breed, climate, and facilities for giving the chicks proper care."

Here's an important item from the bulletin on feeding livestock, It says, "An important means of reducing costs and increasing net returns from livestock is more skillful feeding." This question involves a practical knowledge of feeding requirements of different classes of animals, composition of feeds, and the compounding of rations. Better feeding of livestock is a study that PAYS WELL for the time devoted to it."

I have a number of other things that I jotted down from Dr. Mohler's bulletin, but I'll only have time for one more so I'll skip to the last----the future of the livestock industry. Here it is.

"Statistics indicate that livestock will not increase in numbers as fast as the human population. As land becomes more valuable and human population increases, dairy or dual-purpose cattle probably will replace beef cattle in some degree, especially near cities. Better livestock of all kinds must replace inefficient, inferior kinds if stock owners are to prosper. Problems of the industry probably will increase in number because of a higher complexity of national life brought about by increased population. The successful solution of present problems will aid greatly in meeting problems of the future."

Now folks, I have given you these facts to think about.

If you want additional information on livestock problems, write for Miscellaneous Publication No. 81-MP, called RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY ON PROBLEMS OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION.

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CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT: You have been listening to one of the regular Farm Reporter programs broadcast from_____ in cooperation with the Federal Department of Agriculture. Write this station for a copy of Miscellaneous Publication No. 81-MP.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Radio Service
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

YOUR FARM REPORTER AT WASHINGTON. Monday, August 24, 1931.

Crops and Soils Interview No. 34:

ANNOUNCEMENT: Come on now, Mr. Reporter. -- What have those specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture been telling you this time --- Let's hear your report --- Ladies and gentlemen, Your Farm Reporter at Washington!----

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Mr. Asher Hobson, in charge of the foreign service division, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, tells us that international action to aid agriculture is gaining headway. There are now some thirty-odd international groups and organizations in operation, and most of those have come into being in the last ten years. And, Mr. Hobson says that cooperation on an international scale in the field of agriculture is a movement that promises to grow.

As he sees it, many of our farm problems are international in their scope and in their origin. Often they suggest international action. He points out that government action designed to benefit farming in one nation may work a hardship to growers in another country. Acts of one country often call forth counter acts in another. Bounties and subsidies in one nation may bring forth countervailing duties elsewhere.

The Government of the United States recommends a reduction in wheat acreage. Certain other Governments are encouraging espansion of area in wheat. The wheat-acreage problem interests all wheat-growing countries. Unity of action for the relief of agriculture has been seriously considered by eight eastern European countries. Statesmen of many countries are now facing the question of whether international agreement affords an effective means of helping agriculture.

Getting a little nearer home, Dr. C. J. Galpin of the rural life division of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, suggests that a well-considered plan of developing better relations between rural industries and small farming might help both farming and industry in this country.

Already we have a large number of part-time farmers in some sections who piece out their living by working at various other occupations.

A recent study of a large number of small farms in the Applachian region of Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, and North Carolina, showed that many of the farmers, and often other members of the family splice the income from sale of farm stuff by doing other work. From hauling school children and running a

taxi to driving a hearse, and from working in a grain elevator to digging in a coal mine, the occupations were many including work in railroad shops, blacksmithing, mail carrying, buying and selling livestock, work in oil fields, preaching, holding barn dances, and a number of others.

Even with those outside sources of income, however, Dr. Galpin says the material standard of living of those part-time farmers on small farms was not more than half that of the large farms of the Nation. It is evident that those farmers are working part-time at other things from force of necessity and not from pleasure, but apparently they prefer that manner of living to any other within their reach. Their families get the benefit of living on the land and they can raise families on their modest incomes. They have the proverbial freedom of the countryman. But the fact that the outside work is near by is more or less accidental; so part-time farming for most of those men is uncertain to say the least. Dr. Galpin thinks that National or State action to make that situation more secure and to stabilize the alliance between part-time farming and rural or city industries seems to be in order. Anyway, there is need for more information about the possibilities of skillfully dovetailing small farming with rural industries.

And speaking of farming as a way of living, Mr. F. L. Mulford, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, reminds me that a lot of us could make our home places more pleasant and attractive, and not have to spend a lot of money doing it either.

You know the saying, "It takes a lot of living in a house to make it home." But it really takes a lot more than that. As Mr. Mulford says, "If a dwelling is to be really a home it must be more than a place at which to eat and sleep."

He has made a special study of the home-like, attractive, beautiful, comfortable places he has observed in different parts of the country. He has also noted the bare looking farmsteads and ugly looking farm houses. He has seen what can be done by better, more convenient location of walks and drives, and planting of trees and shrubs. He has thought out the principles of good landscaping, and consulted with landscape artists and engineers. And all the time, he has kept in mind the work that the farmer has to do, and has considered all these things from the standpoint of the practical man who is forced to make every dollar count.

However, he points out, that a well-designed farmstead may be bare and unattractive until the place is sort of tied together by planting of trees, and shrubs, and flowers. And he says a lot depends on where those trees, and shrubs are placed. The chief things to consider in plants around the home place are their foliage, and their winter effect and their flowers.

You've seen places, and I have too, which look cool and comfortable and home-like when the summer foliage is on, but when winter comes, they are as bleak and barren and ugly as can be. In the United States, taken as a whole, the deciduous plants are without foliage at least five months of the year. But we are living on the farm, just as continuously as in summer. Mr. Mulford reminds us that the moderate use of evergreen shrubs may help make the home place pleasant in winter and give a touch of needed color at the right time. On the other hand, many deciduous shrubs have attractive winter characters. Some have bright colored berries. Then there are barks of many shades of brown

and gray, and some of bright red, green, and yellow. If properly arranged they can make pleasing contrasts and add to winter beauty -----

"If properly arranged" that's the point. But Mr. Mulford has prepared a bulletin called "Beautifying the Farmstead" which tells how to arrange lawns, and walks, and drives, and trees, and shrubs, and other plants so that your place will be a better place for you to live and come nearer to expressing your individuality maybe than it does now. That bulletin is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1087.

And while we are mentioning bulletins, any of you interested in onion culture or in drug plants can get bulletins on those subjects, now.

The market demand for many cultivated plant drugs is not large enough to justify growing them except as small minor crops. And in collecting, and curing, and preserving, and packing drugs for market, the man who goes in for raising any of these many plants needs special knowledge of the trade requirements. Farmers' Bulletin No. 663 on "Drug Plants under cultivation" gives information about the cultivation, handling, and yield of individual species and something on the demand and price paid.

"Onion Culture", which is Farmers' Bulletin No. 354, tells the climatic requirements and soils adapted to this important market-garden and truck crop. It also gives suggestions on how to prepare new land, and the proper crop rotation, and preparation of the soil. There are few crops that requires so careful fitting of the soil as do onions. It is very essential that fertilizers be well fixed with the soil. But all those things, as well as many questions of handling and marketing are taken up in the bulletin.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The bulletin's mentioned are free as long as the supply lasts. You can get them by either writing to Station ______ or by writing direct to the United States Department of Agriculture, at Washington, D. C. Ask for Farmers' Bulletin No. 354 on "Onion Culture" and Farmers' Bulletin No. 663 on "Drug Plants" and that bulletin on "Farm Budgeting" is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1564. Remember the number 1-5-6-4 on "Farm Budgeting" and also free as long as the supply lasts.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Radio Service OFFICE OF INFORMATION

YOUR FARM REPORTER AT WASHINGTON Wednesday, August 26, 1931

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Speaking Time: 10 Minutes All Regions

BROODING IN BATTERIES

ANNOUNCEMENT: Your Farm Reporter at Washington has been gathering information on battery brooders. He's going to tell us to-day what he's found out, from his friend Mr. A. R. Lee of the Department of Agriculture. So at this time Station _______ presents Your Farm Reporter....

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Battery brooding, as you know, is pretty largely tied up with commercial poultry farming on a big scale. However, battery brooders can be -- and are -- used on ordinary farms. But whether you can make use of brooder batteries or not, they represent an interesting development in the pountry industry. And as such, I want to talk about them today.

Now, real commercial poultry farming in this country dates back to 1885. That was the year that artificial brooders were first used in the United States. Since then commercial poultry raising, along with the rest of the industry, has developed tremendously. They've tried out all sorts of brooding systems, all tending to increase production. These systems included the hot-water-pipe brooders, and the more modern colony stove brooders. The battery system is very recent. It has been widely used only in the last 2 or three years.

You might be interested to know that the first battery brooders were simply wire-bottomed shipping boxes. They were used for holding surplus baby chicks until the chicks were sold. But the chicks seemed to get along so well in these boxes that someone hit upon the idea of arranging brooding equipment in battery form.

Along about the same time it was discovered that chicks could be raised indoors successfully for several weeks. This was made possibly by the previous discovery of vitamins, and the fact that certain vitamins serve as substitutes for sunlight. Thus, everything was set for the development of the sky-scraper brooders. Chicks fed for rapid growth were successfully raised to broiler size in these coops, arranged in from 4 to 6 tiers.

Nowadays battery brooders are also being used for raising pullets. A few poultrymen even raise their pullets to maturity in the battery coops.

This is true especially of poultry farms where contaminated yards have caused heavy losses. Battery brooders are very helpful in this respect. They raise pullets free from worms where yards around the brooder houses are infected with parasites. Then the pullets are usually removed from batteries after they are well feathered and no longer need heat -- and put on good, clean range.

Recently, as a sideline of the baby-chick business, a demand has developed for older chickens which no longer need artificial heat. Batteries can also be used to supply this demand.

Some of these batteries are individual ones with several compartments. Others are arranged in long tiers. There are numerous types. Some have individual heating devices. Others are simply kept in heated rooms. From 60 to 100 baby chicks are put into each compartment. And from one-fourth to one-third of the chicks can be raised in the batteries to broiler age. The remainder are usually transferred to other batteries, or else put on range. Some commercial poultry raisers brood several thousand broilers in one room at the same time.

Ordinary metal brooders are equipped with floors of half-inch-mesh hardware cloth or wire, which permits the droppings to go through to a pan, which is under each compartment. Feeding and watering troughs are attached to the front of each coop. Wires and openings are arranged so that chickens can get at the food and water easily. Batteries are usually manufactured commercially, but they can be made at home and some poultrymen prefer to make their own.

Poultry raisers who use battery rooders believe that this system has several advantages over other methods of brooding. There is less disease -- less space is necessary -- less labor is required -- and they can be operated throughout the year regardless of weather conditions. They also save fuel. And it's true that remarkable results are being obtained -- especially in overcoming the usual losses from parasites and diseases. Diseases which would otherwise spread through contaminated soil are much more easily controlled. One of the most common diseases of this kind is coccidiosis.

Feeding, of course, is a big problem in battery brooding. The chicks get only the feed given to them. They have no chance to balance their ration with the green feed, minerals and insects that they usually pick up when out on range. So they are fed all-mash rations, which must include minerals, milk and some substitute for green feed, such as alfalfa meal. Cod-liver oil must also be included as it is necessary to prevent leg weakness which results from lack of sunlight and vitamin D.

Mash is kept before the chicks all the time. But Mr. Lee says it is not advisable to feed more than 14 hours a day. There's danger of the chicks eating too much and growing too rapidly. Some poultrymen have tried keeping the room lighted all night, with feed before the chicks. The Department of Agriculture doesn't recommend this method, however.

All in all, battery brooding requires the most careful attention to details. It does not eliminate <u>all</u> the difficulties encountered in brooding chicks in winter. For instance, there's frequently trouble with cannibalism. One group of chicks may develop this trouble while others on the same feed

may not. So the exact cause is not known, and the cure is still debatable.

There's also a form of leg deformity which sometimes occurs, -- and which is not prevented by feeding cod-liver oil. Recent experiments indicate that this may be due to some vitamin deficiency in the ration. The necessary vitamin seems to be contained in green feed and sour milk, although this hasn't been proved definitely.

Naturally, a high degree of cleanliness and sanitation is necessary at all times. Dropping pans must be cleaned daily and the batteries kept disinfected. Feed and water troughs must be kept clean. Good ventilation, without drafts, must be provided. The humidity in the room as well as the temperature has to be regulated too.

Now, there is no Department of Agriculture bulletin on battery brooding alone. However, there is an excellent general publication called "Incubation and Brooding of Chickens." If you would like to have a copy write for Farmers' Bulletin No. 1538-F.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: Your Farm Reporter at Washington has just reported his interview with Mr. A. R. Lee of the Department of Agriculture, on brooding poultry in battery brooders. Send your requests for that bulletin to Station ______ or to the Department of Agriculture in Washington. It is called "Incubation and Brooding of Chickens," and the number is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1538-F.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

Radio Service

OFFICE OF
INFORMATION

YOUR FARM REPORTER AT WASHINGTON Friday, August 28, 1931.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SPEAKING TIME: 10 Minutes. All Regions.

WHAT'S BACK OF THE PRICE OF BUTTER?

ANNOUNCEMENT: What do you mean when you say, "What's the price of butter today?" What makes the price of butter? and how? How do market news services serve the dairy producer on the farm? These are some of the questions Your Farm Reporter at Washington is going to discuss today. He brings you at this time the result of his interview with specialists of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Here he is, ready to report.....

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The price of butter has a history. Some of it goes back many years, some of it is recent. Our present system is the result of evolution-- of experiment and revision. We might say it was built up by the trial and error method, pretty largely.

You ask, "What is the price of butter today?" And doubtless you don't mean exactly the same thing that you would have meant even 10, 15 years ago. The particular thing most of us have in mind is the price on the certain market that our creameryman sends his butter to. We know that if butter declines 1 cent a pound at New York, we will receive approximately 1 cent less for the butter from our territory-- providing our butter goes to New York.

Nowadays the price on which many creameries sell their butter is usually based either on the Chicago or the New York price. Among our big dairy states, the common base in Minnesota and Iowa is New York "extras"-- extras being the trade name for 92-score butter. In Wisconsin it is Chicago extras. And so, when a butter buyer goes out and bargains for the output of a certain creamery, he bargains on this basis. Ordinarily he'll offer, say 1/2 cent over or under the price of "extras", depending on quality.

But, for many years-- and not so long ago that most of you can't remember it--- the prevailing quotation on nearly all our butter came from Elgin, Ill. Up to less than 15 years ago, what most dairymen referred to when they asked the price of butter, was this Elgin quotation.

There are three ways by which butter quotations are established. One way is to base quotations on actual sales; that is, sales on what is known as the "spot call" of a produce exchange, plus actual sales on the street. This is the most common method today. And generally speaking, this is the way prices are established in New York and Chicago.

A second method is the committee method. It's still used in some places, and I'll have more to say about it later.

Then, the third way is known as the call-board system. The best example of this was the call-board at Elgin. This board was discontinued in 1917, at the request of the United States Government, but for many years before that time its quotation on butter was the best known quotation in the country. Years ago Elgin was an outstanding butter market, the center of a rich dairy region. The call board would meet once a week. Butter would be offered for sale and buyers would bid. The quotation for the following week was figured on the basis of these bids.

Now, as long as Elgin WAS a market for a large volume of butter, this system worked well enough. But the time came when the volume marketed at Elgin was an almost insignificant part of the country's total production. And still, the Elgin call-board continued to set the price for most of the country. You can see that this situation had serious disadvantages. Among the principal of which was that these quotations were based on the small offerings of a few dealers or manufacturers and the bids on the sales of small quantities. The call board was not primarily a place to SELL butter it was a place to establish a price at which butter could be sold. It was thus thrown open to criticism, and even suspicion. This was especially true during the later years of the board, when other butter markets far over shadowed the Elgin market in volume handled. And this was the situation that finally led the government to ask that the call-board be closed.

Today, most quotations are established by reporting agencies. These agencies base their quotations on the actual sales made EVERY DAY on the spot call of the exchange, AND on the sales made by dealers AFTER the close of the market.

The "spot call" itself is merely a meeting in a large room of a produce exchange, which affords dealers an opportunity to offer butter for sale and buyers an opportunity to bid. If there are no actual sales the market reporter considers the bids and offers made. Then he takes into account the actual trading which may take place AFTER the call.

On the New York market two different agencies issue market reports. One is a commercial market news agency. The other is the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. As a general rule the quotations made by these agencies are alike--which may be considered a fair test of the accuracy and reliability of the present system in that market.

It should be said that the New York Exchange has also a committee price, released early in the morning, immediately following the close of the "call" at 10 o'clock. This committee price is based entirely upon the sales during the "spot call", and so far has not had any particular use outside of the market proper.

Then comes the commercial agency quotation at 12 o'clock. And at 3 o'clock the government quotation is published, after all sales for the day are concluded.

The reporting system, of course, is not new on the New York market. The New York quotation was being followed almost exclusively in Minnesota at the time the Elgin quotation was governing prices in most other states. You might be interested to know how the system started. Along in the 1850's, individual dealers on the New York market were accustomed to issuing their own quotations. Then the printer who printed these various reports for them, had an idea. He conceived the plan of getting out a SINGLE report which all dealers could use. He printed his first quotation in 1858, and the organization which he founded is still the leading commercial reporting agency on the New York market.

Now, the question is, how does the individual dairyman benefit by following the market through these reports. Well, in the first place, SOMEBODY has to watch the markets--else they'd go to pieces in no time. And then, the farmer who does follow the markets gains an insight into the factors which make prices. This in itself might be sufficient reason, if there were no others. He finds that price changes are due to certain conditions. He is better able to understand the reasons for the behaviour of markets. At least he knows WHY prices are low--if there's any consolation in that. He keeps track of what is going on and he's well informed up to the minute.

The actual price you receive for your butterfat, of course, varies directly with the price that manufactured butter brings on the central market--where it is sold on a quality basis.

Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin are known as the three principal QUALITY butter states. And farmers in these states are receiving from 3 to 10 cents above the price which farmers are getting in other sections, where high quality is not so prominent.

Now, I want to tell you briefly about the market reporting services which the Department of Agriculture offers free for your benefit. You can get not only a daily service--but a weekly service--or a monthly service. All you have to do is write to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and ask to be placed on the mailing list for the type of service you want. The reports will be mailed to you free of charge.

I guess I'd better tell you, also, where I got my informatiin -- Because I know that YOU know I'm no economist myself. I'm indebted for it to Mr. L.M. Davis, who is in charge of the market news service on dairy products; and Mr. W.J. Venske, associate of Mr. Davis in the Division of Dairy and Poultry Products.

If you'd like further information along these lines I suggest that you write to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Washington.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: Your Farm Reporter has just brought you his weekly report on dairying. If you'd like to receive one of the government market news services on dairy products, write to Station____or direct to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture, in Washington, D.C.

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UNITED STATES
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YOUR FARM REPORTER AT WASHINGTON. RELEASE Monday, August 31, 1931.

Crops and Soils Interview No. 35: About Farm Insurance and A Few Other Things

ANNOUNCEMENT: Now let's call on our farm reporter at Washington for his report. You know, he reports to us the findings of the specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture ---- Well, Mr. Reporter, are you ready? --- We are ready when you are ---

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First, I want to tell you what Dr. V.N. Valgren has to say about crop and livestock insurance, and some of the other forms of farm insurance.

Dr. Valgren is the farm insurance specialist of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. As such, he has been investigating how farmers are fixed on insurance, and some of the possibilities of protection against accidents and accidental losses, which sooner or later may hit any farmer, no matter how good a farmer he is.

Of course, we all realize there are a lot of uncertainties in farming. If we had never realized it before, the droughts this year and last, and that plague of grasshoppers would be enough to call it to our attention. Plan as we may, lightning here or windstorm there; drought this year, and maybe flood or disease epidemic next year, take their toll; and often when we can least afford to stand the loss to the crops or livestock.

Dr. Valgren, however, thinks that much more could be done to spread out such occasional heavy losses and to stave off disaster if more attention were given to farm insurance.

As Dr. Valgren points out, the farmers of these United States spend about 25 million dollars a year for hail insurance, but hail is only one of the many hazards that threaten a growing crop. He says what we need is crop insurance to protect farmers agains heavy loss from any and all the many causes clearly beyond the farmer's control.

Of course, the problem of working out general crop insurance is complicated by the fact that some years, as in some sections this year and last, damage from drought or other causes is widespread. Then, too, there is the risk from fraud and negligence on the part of the policyholder that must be guarded against. However, Dr. Valgren thinks that in spite of such obstacles something can be done toward working out practical general crop insurance.

Then there is livestock insurance. Owners of livestock carry very little insurance on their animals, except maybe some fire and windstorm insurance. Real livestock insurance to meet loss from disease or accident now covers only a fraction of one per cent of the livestock in this country.

As a rule, the average American farm is big enough so that the loss of a hog or two, or even a cow, doesn't make a serious dent in the farm income, and that may be one reason why so little livestock insurance is in force in this country. Then, too, a company offering livestock insurance over any wide extent of territory has to be so careful to keep from being imposed upon by the small minority of unscrupulous and negligent stockmen, that premiums for the insurance have to be relatively high.

Crop insurance and livestock insurance are the two main insurance needs that are peculiar to farmers, but Dr. Valgren points out that all the more common forms of insurance are needed by farmers quite as much as by city men, and some forms of insurance are much more urgently needed on the farm than in the city. In fact, probably no occupation has greater or more varied insurance needs than farming, and probably no occupation is, as a rule, so inadequately insured.

In the East, the Middle West, and the Far West, fire insurance on farm buildings and other property is the general rule, and windstorm insurance is fairly common. But in the Cotton States even fire insurance is more often the exception than the rule.

For the country as a whole, however, Dr. Valgren estimates, that probably three-fourths of the farmers are insured against fire, and perhaps half of them against windstorm. Perhaps half of the farm motorists carry some kind of automobile insurance, but too often only against fire and theft. Without liability insurance, he says, a car owner risks the savings of a lifetime on the doubtful bet that no serious personal accident will result to another from the operation of his car.

From what information is to be had, it seems that less than half of the American farmers have any life insurance, and those who do carry some have much less than the average city family. And the percentage of farmers carrying accident and health insurance is way below average; yet the man who has to work with a refractory mule or a supposedly "gentle" dairy bull, or with farm machinery, or who does the thousand and one other jobs around the farm runs more risks than the traffic-dodging city dweller. Yet less than 5 per cent of our farmers carry accident insurance.

Well, that need for insurance, especially for livestock and crop insurance is something to be thinking about. Dr. Valgren promises me he will have something more to say along this line later.

There is another form of protection, which has been called to my mind by some of the specialists of the Bureau of Plant Industry, and that is -- protection against weeds.

Of course, we all fought weeds in the spring, we fought them all summer, and we are going into the fall still fighting. In fact, sometimes it seems that farming is just one long warfare against weeds. Weeds are so powerful in cutting crop yields and, at the same time, in making more work for the farmer, that we can <u>not</u> be indifferent to them. Of course, you know

the three main principles of weed control: first, prevent weeds from maturing seed on the farm; second, prevent the introduction of weed seeds on the farm; and third, prevent perennial weeds from making top growth.

You can get the practical details as to how to apply those principles from Farmers' Bulletin No. 660, "Weeds: How to Control Them." A revised edition of this bulletin has just been completed, and it contains a list of fifty of our worst weeds and how they spread and where. It is a mighty handy bulletin to be acquainted with.

If land is planted to the same crop year after year, certain weeds have a good opportunity to make top growth and ripen their seed. So, those weeds become firmly established. But if that land were planted to different crops in succession, there would be no chance for the weeds to make nearly as much headway.

Furthermore, adopting a rotation usually means the growing of grass, or clover, or other forage crops which shade out many kinds of weeds, and as those forage crops are grazed by livestock or else cut for hay before seeds of most weeds ripen, they lessen weed reproduction.

In some grain-growing localities where wheat is grown continuously, weeds are very troublesome; but when a rotation including a cultivated crop and a forage crop is adopted, the weeds that are so common under continuous wheat cultivation have much less chance to make growth and mature their seed. Rotation works much the same way with weeds in certain old meadows, in which the stand of forage plants has become thin and weeds of many kinds have crowded in and reduced the yield of hay. Wherever it is practicable to plow up such run-down, weedy meadows, many of the weeds will be disposed of by the introduction of suitable cultivated crops and grain crops, for two or three years.

I am glad to report that pathologists of the Bureau of Plant Industry have announced the results of their findings as to that serious transit and market disease of tomatoes known as the tomato late-blight rot. Those findings have just been issued by the United States Department of Agriculture as its Circular No. 169.

And let me also call your attention to Farmers' Bulletin No. 1367 on "Control of Potato-Tuber Diseases." That bulletin gives a brief description of each of the important potato-tuber diseases with reference to the most practicable control measures.

It gives the information needed to clarify the potato-disease situation to growers and dealers,

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ANNOUNCEMENT: The publications mentioned are free as long as the supply lasts. Write for them either to this Station______ or direct to the United States Department of Agriculture, at Washington, D. C. "Control of Potato-Tuber Diseases" is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1367. "Tomato Late-Blight Rot, A Serious Transit and Market Disease" is Circular No. 169, and "Weeds, How to Control Them" is Farmers Bulletin No. 660.

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